

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1899

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BU, YO, CH
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-CHINESE AND BULGARIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

1. THE LATEST NEWS ON BULGARIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS IS WHAT DID NOT HAPPEN. DESPITE BULGARIAN CONCERN AND UNHAPPINESS WITH THE HUA VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA (NOTABLY MORE THAN WITH HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA), THE MAJOR SPEECH ON BULGARIAN NATIONAL DAY DID NOT INCLUDE ANY DIRECT CRITICISMS OF CHINA OR YUGOSLAVIA. AS A CONSEQUENCE THERE WAS NO CHINESE OR YUGOSLAV WALKOUT FROM THE CEREMONIAL MEETING AT WHICH THE SPEECH WAS GIVEN, IN CONTRAST WITH BULGARIAN STATEMENTS AND WALKOUTS BY THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR ON THE SAME OCCASION IN 1977 AND 1976. THE SPEECH, GIVEN SEPTEMBER 8 BY PARTY SECRETARY DIMPUR STANISHEV (WHO, SIGNIFICANTLY, HAS RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES) WAS LIMITED
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TO A BRIEF STATEMENT OF BULGARIAN SUPPORT FOR GOOD RELATIONS IN THE BALKANS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON SEPTEMBER 9, TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO ASK THE AMBASSADOR'S REACTION TO THE HUA VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH COMMENT THAT IMPROVED

CHINESE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA AND THE US, WAS A GOOD THING AND NEED NOT INVOLVE DETRIMENT TO RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY. HE DID NOT CONCEDE THAT SUCH WAS ENTIRELY THE CASE WITH THE HUA VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, BUT WAS NOT INCLINED TO CHARACTERIZE THE VISIT IN TERMS USED BY THE PRESS (SEE SOFIA 1838). SEVERAL OTHER BULGARIAN LEADERS HAVE TAKEN AN UNACCUSTOMED INITIATIVE ASKING WESTERN REACTIONS TO THE HUA VISIT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT NEGATIVE BULGARIAN REACTION TO THE HUA VISIT HAS CHANGED, EXPRESSIONS OF THEIR CONCERN HAVE NOTABLY ABATED, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

GARTHOFF

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